AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A screw comprising:

a shank having a tip at one end and a head at the other end, said head having a lower surface;

a thread on said shank;

a knurled portion on said shank disposed between said thread and said head;

at least one flute in said knurled portion; and

at least one rib on said lower surface of said head.

2. (Original) The screw of claim 1, further comprising a second rib on said lower surface of said head, said second rib being different from said at least one rib.

3. (Original) The claim of claim 1 wherein said at least one flute comprises two flutes.

4. (Original) The screw of claim 1 wherein said at least one flute extends onto a portion of a neck of said screw.

5. (Original) The screw according to claim 1, wherein said tip is a self-drilling tip.

6. (Original) The screw according to claim 1, further comprising a transition section between said thread and said knurled portion.

7. (Currently Amended) A screw comprising:

a shank having a tip at one end and a head at the other end;

a thread on said shank;

a knurled portion on said shank disposed between said thread and said head, wherein said knurled portion comprises peaks and intersecting troughs; and

at least one flute in said knurled portion.

8. (Original) The screw of claim 7 wherein said head has a lower surface and at least one rib on said lower surface.

9. (Original) The screw according to claim 7 wherein said head has an upper surface and said upper surface is a rough surface.

10. (Original) The screw according to claim 7 wherein said head has a lower surface and a circumferential lip on said lower surface.

11. (Original) The screw according to claim 7 further comprising a transition section between said thread and said knurled portion.

12. (Currently Amended) A screw comprising:

a shank having a tip at one end and a head at the other end, said head having a lower surface, wherein said lower surface of said head further comprises a continuous circumferential lip;

a thread on said shank;

at least one flute on said shank disposed between said thread and said head; and

at least one rib on said lower surface of said head.

13. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein said shank further comprises a knurled portion on said shank disposed between said thread and said head.

14. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein said at least one flute comprises two flutes.

15. (Original) The screw of claim 12 further comprising a second rib different from said at least one rib, said second rib extending from said lower surface of said head to a neck on said head.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Original) The screw of claim 12 further comprising a transition section disposed between said thread and said at least one flute.

18. (Previously Presented) A screw comprising:

a shank having a tip at one end and a head at the other end, said head having a lower surface;

a thread on said shank;

a knurled portion on said shank disposed between said thread and said head, and at least one flute in said knurled portion and extending onto at least a portion of said thread; and

at least a first rib on said lower surface of said head.

19. (Original) The screw according to claim 18, further comprising a second rib on said lower surface of said head, said second rib being different from said first rib.

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Original) The screw according to claim 18 further comprising a circumferential lip on said lower surface of said head.

22. (Original) The screw according to claim 18, wherein said second rib is disposed on said lower surface of said head and extends onto a neck of said head.

23. (Original) The screw according to claim 18 further comprising a transition section between said thread and said knurled portion.

24. (Original) A method of using a screw comprising:

providing a screw shank having a tip, a thread, a knurled portion with at least one flute, and a head;

providing a particle producing material and a base material;

inserting said screw, by rotation, into said particle producing material, producing particles by rotation of said knurled portion in said particle producing material;

transporting at least some of said produced particles from said particle producing material via said at least one flute; and

securing said particle producing material to said base material.

25. (Original) A method of using a screw comprising:

providing a screw shank having a tip, a thread, a knurled portion and a head;

providing a bulge producing material and a base material;

inserting said screw, by rotation, into said bulge producing material,

producing a bulge on a surface of said bulge producing material by rotation of said thread into said bulge producing material;

displacing said bulge into said bulge producing material via said knurled portion; and

securing said bulge producing material to said base material.

26. (New) The screw of claim 1, wherein said knurled portion comprises peaks and intersecting troughs.

27. (Cancelled).